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Fred F. Marshall

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## GREENE COUNTY BOY HAS PROUD DISTINCTION OF BEING CHOSEN TO ATTEND PEACE CONFERENCE

Although he holds only the rank of a private, Fred F. Marshall, of Cedarville, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall, has the proud distinction of having been chosen to attend the peace conference at Versailles. He will go in the capacity of an army photographer and will make the official pictures of the conference. His letter to his parents in which he tells about his good fortune in being chosen for this important work is as follows:

Paris, France,  
Dec. 18, 1918.

Dear Folks:—

This is an eventful day for me. Perhaps the most wonderful day that any boy of the A. E. F. could hope to enjoy—if only for a few days. The photo I am sending you tells the tale. I am once more living as a civilian and leave Paris in a few days for a trip to The Hague to photograph the peace conference and tour Belgium and Holland. I do not know how it came about but through some streak of good fortune my name was sent in to fill the assignment and today I am roaming the streets of Paris "the gentleman and scholar" "Messeur Fred Marshall." I was given 450 francs through the American attache to purchase a civilian outfit and I have everything from socks to collar buttons. It is rather queer to get back in civilized togs again and I am not otherwise enthusiastic about these French styles, but to say the least it is like living

again and a source of amusement. I returned to the laboratory at noon time today and I was lucky to get through alive. The boys came nearly mobbing me and swamped me on every side with questions and inquiries—"Hey! How did you get that way?" "How did you pull it?" "Is your dad a Congressman?" "Are you going home?" "Are you eating dinner with the president?" and a dozen other such remarks. "How much did they soak you for the coat?" "Let's see how it feels to wear a civil hat," etc., etc. I'm the envy of the whole outfit and I haven't the least idea why I was picked out for the job, for surely there are some 250 better photograph men here than I am, certainly with more experience. I have my passports almost completed and expect to leave for London any time now. I will likely go via London, thence to Belgium and to Rotterdam and on to The Hague. I will travel about Holland with a captain in a big courier touring car and get \$25 per day commutation while traveling and \$5 per day when permanently stationed. The assignment will take about two months to fill and I expect to return to Paris afterwards and by that time our company will be packed and ready to go home. So you see after all I'm having a pretty nice time out of my position as a private in the Signal Corps, and I wouldn't this moment trade places with any 2nd. lieutenant in the U. S.. Of course I hate to leave dear old Paris. I've had a wonderful time here and was learning French rapidly. Now I will lose the smattering of it that I have attained and be required to break over to Dutch. Worse yet.

I am sending home some packages which will likely reach you in a month or two, more or less. One is a helmet for Lawrence.

From now on I am Mr. Fred F. Marshall, Official Business U. S. Gov't. Look for me home in short order and I'll send you some more photos of my civilian self later on. I long for dear old U. S. again, the only real country worth living in, unless it is England. England is fairyland, the parts I have seen.

Be looking for me home in the spring or along about ground hog day maybe, I don't know.

Love to all.

FRED F. MARSHALL.